

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A plasmid containing the isolated DNA according to any one of claims ~~13 or 23-26~~ 24-26.

15. (previously presented) A host cell transformed with a plasmid according to claim 14.

16. (cancelled)

17. (cancelled)

18. (cancelled)

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (cancelled)

24. (original) An isolated DNA which encodes a protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:1.

25. (original) An isolated DNA having the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

26. (currently amended) An isolated DNA which hybridizes to the isolated DNA of claim 25 under stringent conditions of hybridization at 42°C in the presence of 50% formamide and washing at 68°C in the presence of 0.15M NaCl, and which is suitable for use as a probe.

27. (new) A method of producing a peptide having pro-MMP2 activation activity, which comprises incubating the host cell of claim 15 under suitable conditions for growth and expressing the encoded protein of said DNA.